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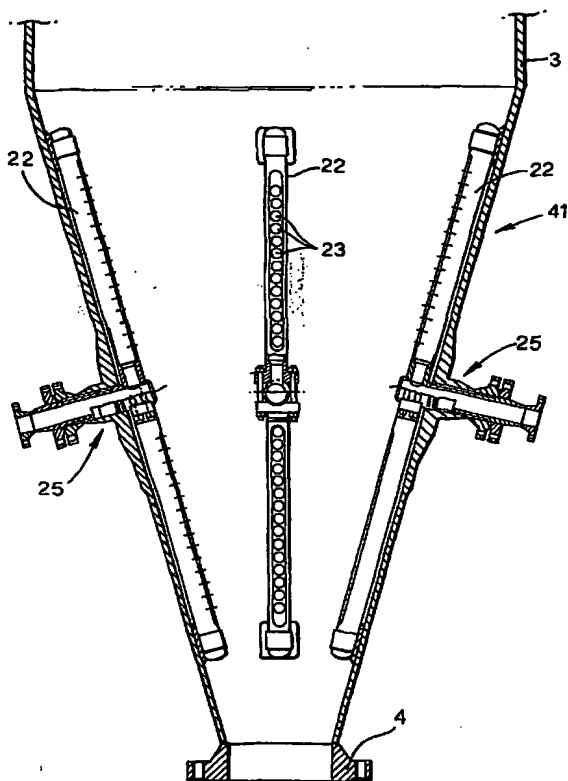
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(54) Title: **SLUICE VESSEL AND METHOD OF OPERATING SUCH A SLUICE VESSEL**



(57) Abstract: Sluice vessel (1) for feeding solid particulates into a pressurized pressure vessel, the sluice vessel (1) having a low pressure state and a high pressure state, the sluice vessel (1) comprising means for charging the sluice vessel with a load of the solid particulates when the sluice vessel is in its low pressure state, at least one discharge port (4), and pressurising means (6) for increasing the pressure inside the vessel by bringing a pressurising fluid into the vessel, to bring the vessel into its high pressure state before discharging the load via the discharge port (4), whereby the pressurising means (6) comprises one or more pressurising fluid inlet means arranged to be submerged under the load of solid particulates.

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